

C. R. Higgin's Recorder

A SMALL ENTERPRISE WELL KEPT

# COLUMBUS COURIER

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## The Pit Silo

Five thousand pit silos were made and filled in the fall of 1913 in the dry farming districts served by the Rock Island lines. The summer was one of the driest ever known, not only in the dry farming country but throughout the west. Corn and feed crops were burned and dried up through the middle west. The farmers who dug pit silos were able to save this scorched and withered forage by putting it into the silos. The silage furnished a succulent feed and made the cows give a flow of milk that brought a cash income throughout the winter. These pit silos were built at a total cash outlay per silo of from \$5 to \$25.

The pit silos and the silage changed the sentiment of the people throughout the dry farming districts of five southwestern states. Any man, no matter how cramped financially, can make a pit silo. Few dry land farmers in a bad year are able to spend \$200 to \$800 to build a silo above ground. But little feed value can be realized from crops burned up by drought when they are saved in shocks. The leaves blow away and the sand and the dirt blow through and through the shocks. The packed and shoveted feed put into the pit silos made money for every man who had them. The conclusion which the men reached was that when they could make money in an unfavorable year with feed scorched by drought, that they could make more money in the average years when good feed is produced by putting it into the silos. The silo would make dry land farms money producers every year.

### MAKING THE PIT SILO

Drive a rod or piece of gas pipe into the ground at the center of the silo. Bore a hole in one end of a 2x4 plank and run the rod through the hole. At the other end of the 2x4 drive two heavy spikes. The inside spike should be set at a distance from the rod equal to one-half the diameter of the silo. The outer spike should be driven one foot farther out. Swing the 2x4 in a circle on the ground and the spikes will scratch two circles, twelve inches apart. Dig a trench two or three feet deep between these circles. Fill the

## Alfalfa a Paying Crop

The alfalfa growing on the lot in rear of the townsite office was cut the fifth time this season the first of the week. It has been watered twice between each cutting. Mr. Blair sold the alfalfa on the lot this cutting, the mow-chaser paying \$2 and mowing it himself. The lot is 25x100 feet or less than one sixteenth of an acre. Had each cutting brought \$2, and it has averaged as good as it was this time, they would have realized an income at the rate of \$175 per acre this year. And the alfalfa will never again this lot.

trench with a mixture of sand and cement, using one part of cement to six of sharp, clean sand. Let this set and harden for two or three days. It makes a collar for the pit silo.

It is often advisable to extend this collar two to four feet above the surface of the ground in order to keep storm water from running into the silo. This can be done by using metal forms or a core on which to place the concrete, or two circles in the proper size and height can be made of galvanized iron and used for forms between which the concrete can be placed. As such the concrete above ground has set, remove these forms. One set of forms will do for a neighborhood.

As soon as the collar has become well setting the silo. Start on the inside of the collar, and as you dig down keep the walls smoother and perpendicular. Any bulge or hollow makes an air space that causes spoiled silage. In El Paso county, Colorado, many pit silo builders saw off the two by four used to mark the silo, so that it will just touch the wall as the hole is dug. On the outer end of the 2x4 they bolt a knife made from an old plow share, the front edge being kept sharper than the back. The country is great. The scenery surpasses Europe. Where else can you see that it is always in the center of the silo. With their spades or the editor, they dig out the earth almost to Park. We of course have never the silo wall. They then swing seen them, as we are just in the 2x4 around the circle and the editor, but we understand they are great. We know the west

## Random Notes

Columbus grew in population about 400 in one day. Nothing is known about Columbus.

That was sure some entertainment the old troops extended to the new troops Saturday evening. A most excellent affair indeed and the U. S. A. must be voted entertainers par excellence.

We wonder if any of us have computed how large a town Columbus now is? Of course it is on the map and has been for some time. But the camp of the U. S. A. boys has grown faster than the rest of us. We now have devon troops proper, band quarters, band, hospital corps, machine gun troop, and the quartermaster corps, which altogether makes something over 1000 men stationed here. Did you ever stop to think how many men there are in a city of 5000 people? On the estimate of five to a family, it takes a 5000 populated town to contain 1000 men. So on this basis, coupled with our civilian citizenship, we have an adult citizenship here now equal to the usual 5000 to 7000 town. You have got to take off your hat to Columbus.

From the papers we gather that the shore line of the old U. S. looks mighty good to some of our brothers who have strayed off to foreign lands this past summer, instead of staying with their own dear United States, and spending their money at home. We applaud the efforts of our government to get them out of the predominant they found themselves in when the war broke out, but let us say there is a great part of our country west of the Mississippi; they ought not be ashamed to see it, they ought to spend some of their com to see some of man's rarest gifts, as well as out the silo, so that it will just touch the wall as the hole is dug. On the outer end of the 2x4 they bolt a knife made from an old plow share, the front edge being kept sharper than the back. The country is great. The scenery surpasses Europe. Where else can you see that it is always in the center of the silo. With their spades or the editor, they dig out the earth almost to Park. We of course have never the silo wall. They then swing seen them, as we are just in the 2x4 around the circle and the editor, but we understand they are great. We know the west

Columbus 5 years ago consisted of the U. S. custom house, depot, section house, one general store of possibly a \$200 stock, one small hotel, one real estate office, and four or five small shacks for dwellings.

Today Columbus has 12 two-story substantial buildings, built of white tricel, adobe, cement and lumber, and a score or more of one story business buildings built of same material, together with scores of dwellings, two churches, and a four room two story brick schoolhouse.

The business of the town consists of four general stores, five grocery, two hardware, one drug store, one furnishing, one second hand, one large lumber yard, two repair shops, four hotels, two restaurants, one bakery, four tailor shops, one livery, two blacksmith shops, one newspaper, one bank, one tailor shop, four pool halls, one seed store, five hay and feed stores, a good telephone system with long distance connections, real estate firms, and a large number of minor businesses enterprises and last but least, the only U. S. custom house between New Mexico and old Mexico, in which the receipts reach thousands of dollars per year and through which Poet of Entry many thousands of cattle are brought in from Mexico and shipped to all parts of the U. S. and Canada. This of itself gives a wonderful impetus to the business interests of the town, where we have a bank able to handle the business in all its details.

The El Paso and South West railroad passes through the valley and town and over when the Golden State Limited from Chicago to the coast runs daily each way, making regular stops at Columbus and carrying mail. This road is one of the best equipped roads of the west and will perhaps handle more passengers to the world's fair in 1915, than any other road.

Five years ago Columbus and the Lower Valley had a population of 50. Today the population is more than 1000 and is gradually increasing. And beside this there are about 1000 soldiers encamped here. Columbus has never stopped growing since the

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